

County Commonwealth's Attorney Robert F. Horan.

Both were honored as "champions of justice" by the Northern Virginia Coalition of Victim Services Providers during the 12th Annual Candlelight Vigil of Courage, Hope and Remembrance on April 25. They were presented with the Northern Virginia Coalition Championship Awards.

Mr. Ebert and Mr. Horan were responsible for the prosecution of Washington area snipers John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the sniper attacks traumatized the entire Washington metropolitan area in the fall of 2002. Everyone lived in fear during this shooting spree. These random acts of violence changed forever the lives of Virginians and other area residents who lost loved ones in these senseless crimes.

Mr. Ebert and Mr. Horan handled this complex and high profile prosecution with professionalism, sensitivity for the families of the victims, and a strong sense of fairness and justice. They represent the best aspects of the legal profession and are a source of pride to Virginians.

It is important to remember, as they did, that behind this prosecution there were real people. The sniper attacks left in their wake sons and husbands and fathers and daughters and wives and mothers among the dead and injured, as well as families, friends and communities who continue to grieve the loss of loved ones.

These victims' friends and families recognized the dedication of Mr. Ebert and Mr. Horan to making sure that justice prevailed in the trials of Muhammed and Malvo. These prosecutors never forgot that they owed an obligation to see justice done not just for the Commonwealth of Virginia, but to the families who endured the loss of those they loved. Their compassion and outstanding professional legal work are worthy of recognition, and the victims' groups who honored Mr. Ebert and Mr. Horan deserve our appreciation as well for their willingness to speak out for the rights of victims of crimes.

I draw the attention of Congress and the nation to their actions as an example of how people can serve their communities with distinction and sensitivity.

HONORING SARAH ROSECRANS OF JULIETTE GIRL SCOUT TROOP

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award by Girl Scouts—Kickapoo Council in Peoria, Illinois. She is Sarah Rosecrans of the Juliette Girl Scout Troop.

Sarah is being honored on May 2, 2004 for earning the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The Girl Scout Gold Award can be earned by girls ages 14–17 or in grades 9–12.

Girl Scouts of the USA, an organization serving over 2.6 million girls, has awarded

more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must fulfill five requirements: earn four interest project patches, earn the Career Exploration Pin, earn the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, earn the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and design and implement a Girl Scout Gold project. A plan for fulfilling the requirements of the award is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

As a member of the Girl Scouts—Kickapoo Council, Sarah began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award in September 2000. Sarah's project consisted of an event at the council level for Brownie Girl Scouts. The event enabled the Brownie Girl Scouts to learn and prepare for the next level in Girl Scouts, which is Junior Girl Scouts. Sarah is currently a senior in Marquette Heights.

The earning of the Girl Scout Gold Award is a major accomplishment for Sarah and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.

MS. HUGHES SHOULD APOLOGIZE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, April 27, 2004.

President GEORGE W. BUSH,

The White House,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing out of great concern about comments made by one of your top campaign advisors regarding a woman's right to choose. In a live interview on CNN, Karen Hughes made the following statement:

"I think after September 11th the American people are valuing life more and realizing that we need policies to value the dignity and worth of every life.

"And President Bush has worked to say, let's be reasonable, let's work to value life, let's try to reduce the number of abortions, let's increase adoptions.

"And I think those are the kind of policies that the American people can support, particularly at a time when we're facing an enemy, and really the fundamental difference between us and the terror network we fight is that we value every life. It's the founding conviction of our country, that we're endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights, the right to life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

"Unfortunately our enemies in the terror network, as we're seeing repeatedly in the headlines these days, don't value any life, not even the innocent and not even their own." (CNN Late Edition, April 25, 2004)

By claiming that those who "value life" want to reduce abortions, then going on to say that the difference between us and the terrorists is that "we value every life," Ms. Hughes's argument sounds a lot like an effort to equate those who are pro-choice with terrorists. This is a dangerous, ugly and slanderous argument that has no place in our nation's political discourse. To draw even a remote comparison between any law-abiding, patriotic American and the terror-

ists, whose goal is to wipe our country off the map, is not only insulting to law-abiding Americans, it shows particular disrespect to the victims of 9/11 and their families.

Mr. President, you came to office by promising to be "a uniter, not a divider." Your aide's comments have the potential to be extremely divisive by invoking the War on Terrorism. It is cheap and distasteful politics, and we ask you to take a stand against it.

We urge you to have Ms. Hughes apologize for her comments. We urge you to clarify for the public that reproductive choice and terrorism are completely unrelated issues and that all Americans, regardless of their beliefs about a woman's right to choose, are united against the terrorists. This is important for the unity of our country and its political discourse. We know you will take proper action.

Sincerely,

Carolyn B. Maloney, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Hilda Solis, Jan Schakowsky, Tammy Baldwin, Jerrold Nadler, Barbara Lee, Raul M. Grijalva.

[From the Washington Post]

HUGHES DEFENDS REMARKS ON ABORTION
RIGHTS MARCH

(By Dan Balz)

Presidential adviser Karen Hughes responded yesterday to criticism that, in a television interview, she had compared participants in Sunday's abortion rights march in Washington to terrorists, calling that interpretation "a gross distortion" of her remarks.

Hughes's original comments, during an interview Sunday on CNN as the march was forming, drew criticism yesterday from a feminist leader and a House member from New York.

Asked by host Wolf Blitzer how big an issue she thought abortion would be in this year's presidential election, Hughes responded: "Well, Wolf, it's always an issue. And I frankly think it's changing somewhat. I think after September 11th the American people are valuing life more and realizing that we need policies to value the dignity and worth of every life."

The former White House counselor then noted that President Bush has urged Americans to "be reasonable" about the issue and to encourage a reduction in the number of abortions performed each year in a variety of ways, including by encouraging more adoptions.

"And I think those are the kind of policies that the American people can support, particularly at a time when we're facing an enemy, and really the fundamental difference between us and the terror network we fight is that we value every life," she added. "It's the founding conviction of our country, that we're endowed by our creator with certain unalienable rights, the right to life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Unfortunately our enemies in the terror network, as we're seeing repeatedly in the headlines these days, don't value any life, not even the innocent and not even their own."

Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority, condemned the comments as "cynical, ugly and mean-spirited" and urged Hughes to clarify or take back what she said. Rep. Eliot L. Engel (D-N.Y.) issued a statement expressing shock that Hughes "compared the 9/11 terrorists to Americans who marched on the Mall" on Sunday. "It's outrageous to use the tragic events of 9/11 to demonize the pro-choice movement," he said.

Asked for her response yesterday, Hughes sent an e-mail saying, "That is a gross distortion and I would never make such a comparison. Surely even the most strident of